

NWC-003131

1 June 1944

SOURCE: ST Interrogation

SUBJECT: Interrogation of Mrs. NEY, nee Desolva LECHEUR

Fernande
My name is Benoite Lecoq HUY, and I was born 15 October 1895 at St. Valier (Saone-et-Loire), of Claude, and Anne GUILLARD, both deceased. Divorced in 1931 from Eugene Guichard HULLAERT, I was remarried 3 May 1934 in Paris 6e, to Rene Desiro HUY, born 11 October 1896 in Paris 16e. I have never had a child. My second husband has a daughter named Noemie, 25 years old, who lives at 85 Rue St. Dominique, Paris. I was employed at the S.N.C.F. (Southern Railway region). I have never been penalized or decorated; I have never been married, and never engaged in politics. I lived with my husband at 160 rue de Charonne, Paris 12e.

My second husband, Rene KEY, joined the P.P.F. in 1932 as an importer, and after the assassination of CACHILLIN was named Secrétaire Federal of Seine-et-Oise, with offices at 1, rue Volney. His work was purely administrative. I saw him in the black P.P.F. uniform only once, one day when we went to hear Philippe Bourdieu at a meeting at the Vol d'Ivry. He wore a gray raincoat over his uniform then. About Key of that year my husband received threatening letters and he began to carry a revolver all day long. I don't think he had a permit to carry it, because at first he hid it in a bag of sand on the landing. I said I didn't think he had a permit because one evening, coming out of the Bureau, he was searching and he dropped it inside his trousers. I went to his office only twice and saw Key, no one whom I knew. I never knew that he belonged to the Milice d'Action N. August it was arranged for some P.P.F. members to go to Nancy. On the evening before the departure my husband still did not know how they were going. His friend GAMBINO had promised that we could ride in the car of a M. DURAND, whom we did not know, but it developed that he had no room. The next day my husband went for an instant, though I had refused to do so, that I go, saying that he had brought a car (25,000). He left Paris in a convoy of five cars in the first car were VIERNE and GAMBINO; in the second, Maurice JULIEN and a man named Jequier; in the third, the DURAND brothers, Pierre and Louis, several of GAMBINO's wife and in the fourth, my husband and I.

The cover-up was organized by a German officer whom I knew that night. I seem to have introduced him to an "OVERSEER" later at Vital's Club (an "American (German?)"). Which bar was provided with a sub-machine gun which had been taken to it when he started out. When we reached Ethel's, a friend of the "over-see" (German?) left us, talking with him the ENGLAND problem. We stayed at the Hotel Inter until about ten days and then set out for Belfast, arriving there the same night. There were not only three cars, and EUGENE left. At Belfast, there was a room above a grocery store, we were put up first at the Hotel de Paris, and then at the Hotel de Commerce. In that town I met a man named LEO and his daughter Alice (LAWRENCE), and I met some of the MURKIN crew. WILHELM and his wife and children and the "over-see" (German?)

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1. The Commission has been informed that the Government of the Republic of the Philippines has been requested by the United Nations to provide information on the situation of human rights in the country. The Commission has been informed that the Government of the Republic of the Philippines has been requested by the United Nations to provide information on the situation of human rights in the country.

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT.
DATE 2001 2006

In the car which took us to Belfort was CHARLIE, whom I met in Belfort, and before leaving, CHARLIE suggested that I take note of Communist activities in France. When we were alone my husband told me that they were particularly interested in an American pipeline in France, but gave me no further details. His advice was to go home if possible, to lie low and keep out of trouble. He went with me as far as Delle, where I crossed into Switzerland by the regular road of the country people. From Switzerland I crossed into France through Beaumont, Porrentruy, Neuchâtel, Les Verrières, and I arrived in France without any difficulty at Pontarlier in a convoy of refugees from Belfort who, like myself, had crossed into Switzerland. From Pontarlier we went as far as Dijon on the train, and from there I went to Lausanne-Alasia, then to Bannard where I took the train for Paris. I arrived at the Gare de Lyon at 8 a.m. on the last of November.

I went directly to the home of my sister, M^{rs}. HUSATTE, who lives near the Gare de Lyon at 12 Passage Brumoy. She was greatly surprised and pained to see me arrive sick; she put me to bed and bit by bit, told me what had happened since I had left: pillaging, and an order of arrest against my husband. Later she pointed out that I might be bothered on account of my husband, that it was preferable that I not go home, and that I could not stay with her. As regards my work, she questioned two of my fellow-employees - without telling them I was there - to find out whether there was any reason why I should not go back to work. They told her there was not, but nevertheless I did not want to go back. Not knowing where to go, I asked her to call a friend of mine, M. PARISEOT, 20 years old, living at 5 Ave. du Parc St. James, at Neuilly, asking him to receive me as soon as possible; He came the next day. After having told him that I had just arrived from Belfast, and what had gone on in my absence, and that I did not think that I could go back home, I asked him if he could not find me a refuge in the provinces where I could be quiet and take care of my health - not wanting to stay in Paris. He promised to do his best and asked me to wait a few days. If I had had a prompt reply I would have left at once, which would have avoided all this trouble. Unfortunately I did not hear from him at once, because of an epidemic in the neighborhood to which I was to go, and I was asked to delay my departure. As I could no longer stay with my sister, being quite in my own neighborhood, I asked my brother-in-law, M. ALLIX, 40 rue des Harins, if he would take me in for a few days. He did not like the idea, but agreed that he found out that I was merely waiting to leave Paris.

While I was there, I received to my great surprise and during the visit of E. MORAN. He told me that he too had had enough of Germany and taking advantage of the liberation of Belfort had returned to France. He said that he brought no news of my husband, and that he also could not be able to try in Paris and was expecting to work at his trade of bookbinding in the Bois. He only stayed a few minutes and could not tell me very little about my husband, as he had seen very little of him. After a few days, still having no news, I went to the Ave. de l'Opera to order some false hair which would be ready in a couple

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I told her that I did not intend to either see him or telephone him, and that I had even thrown away the paper on which was written the number. When I had thought it over, she wrote it down for me again, as I had decided to call him up to ask him never to return, either to my sister's or anywhere else. I made an appointment with LEO as I had remembered that MOREAU had told me the last time I saw him that it was very difficult for him to find work with the papers he had. If LEO was in Paris he might be able to get false papers for him. Personally I intended to ask him how I could get food cards, but I was arrested before I saw him.

MOREAU had come to see me at ALIX's home the second time I was there; he had come in the hope of finding me, without knowing I was there. It was at that time that he told me of the difficulty of not having false papers, and how hard it was to find work; he told me he had been obliged to sell his gold watch for 15,000 francs in order to live. He also told me he went occasionally to the house of a friend whose name he did not give, but who lived in the Rue de Lille. Except for these visits I never saw MOREAU. He added that he could not see either his wife or his sister, who was a milliner at 47 or 49 Ave. de Clichy.

milliner

Quite by accident I had heard over the radio while at ALIX's a broadcast about the American war effort, mentioning the arrival of gasoline by pipeline. I did not pay attention to the location of this pipeline. I told MOREAU that the Germans were looking for a pipeline, but that the fact that one existed was no secret and that everyone knew about it in France. He agreed with me that it should not be taken seriously. I told him that once on the train going back from Orleans I heard people saying that they had plenty of gasoline, that the Americans sold it to them, and that there were even some who tapped the pipes to get it. There was even a man who specified that, having been evacuated to Coubert (S & M) he had easily got some for his car. I did not give all these details to MOREAU but only to ALIX, who had been vacationing near Meaux before I arrived from Germany. I remember now that I never told MOREAU of the activities at Coubert.

I told MOREAU that the young girls had come to see me, and when he asked for their names I could only describe them, as I did not know their names. MOREAU told me not to speak of him to them, that there was no point in it. He told me that he had known some girls at Badenweiler but did not know if these were the ones.

About the letter which you found on me, which spoke about an appointment I wanted to make, "as a result of yesterday's meeting," I would like to point out that it had no connection with false papers but that it was solely for this reason. My husband had told me if I wanted news about him I could get it from ZELFER, whose family life in Germany was very unhappy, and who wanted to return to France to see his mistress, a certain MARINETTE, living at 4, rue des Abbesses. A few days before leaving for the country I sent to see this girl to ask her if she had any news of ZELFER. MARINETTE had no idea what had become of her lover and did not know whether he was coming to Paris. I told her that he would certainly come, and that evening she went away with me to ALIX's, where she spent the night. She left the next day without waking me and I did not see her again until the day of my arrest, then, having nothing to do, I had gone to see her.

I would like to point out that the second conversation I had with MOREAU, as well as the first, took place at the home of ALIX. He did not leave the apartment and may have heard everything.

MOREAU had told me he had a sister, Mlle. MOREAU, living Ave. de St. Quen. As I did not have her address I looked for a milliner's establishment and that is how I came into contact with her. I introduced myself as an acquaintance of her brother, and wanted his address. She did not know it either. This was the only time I saw her, and I did not know her previously. I explained to her that a man who would give her brother false papers was in Paris, and that I wanted to get in touch with him. She gave me an identity card, saying that in case I did not hear from her brother I should give it to him, or he might need it. She told me that her brother had been taken out for a number of the Nazis, or to have passed from Germany to Germany. I left her without giving her my address.

I believe this false paper was all the more because of the fact that I had been in contact with LEO, the last time I saw him. I believe that this was the only time I saw her, and I did not know her previously. I explained to her that a man who would give her brother false papers was in Paris, and that I wanted to get in touch with him. She gave me an identity card, saying that in case I did not hear from her brother I should give it to him, or he might need it. She told me that her brother had been taken out for a number of the Nazis, or to have passed from Germany to Germany. I left her without giving her my address.

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Since I could not stay with my sister, I had the idea of staying with M. and Mme. PENICHAUD at 70 Blvd. Soult, knowing that they had a very big apartment. I had known M. PENICHAUD, who was my husband's secretary, when my husband had an operation in 1942. Mme. PENICHAUD hesitated to take me in as she did not recognise me, and explained that her husband had been arrested and was in the prison at Versailles, adding that it was the result of a denunciation by Mme. FLOURY, who had also denounced several other people. Mme. FLOURY had been my husband's stenographer. Mme. PENICHAUD did not seem to care for Mme. FLOURY's attitude, as the latter knew that she was only concerned with his commercial correspondence. Mme. PENICHAUD told me that her husband had told her, during a visit to the prison, that he had never seen so many decorations, Croix de Guerre, Legions d'Honneur, etc. in that place. She gave no further details, nor did I ask for any, about the other persons denounced by Mme. FLOURY.

This is what I know about Michel HARSPE. He was a friend of my husband's but more particularly a friend of GAUDIOT. I knew that he had been in prison for having been a Cagouleur, and that he had belonged to the M.P.F. and had often gone to Vichy. I saw him for the last time at Belfort, when he left with HEYSSIK. He did not confide in me what he had done or was going to do. He is very reserved. I never heard anyone speak of him while I was in Germany. It was the girls who had spoken to me of a tall, disheveled, one-eyed man whom I suppose to be Michel. They added that he was a friend of my husband and of GAUDIOT, which is why I believe they were referring to Michel HARSPE. The girls indicated that he was to leave for Italy but gave me no details, nor did I ask for any.

I met the mother of Maurice ZILLER at the home of ALLIX. She had come with MARINETTE who had told her I was in town. She asked me if I knew whether Maurice was coming back, and whether I had any news of him or of his wife and son. I told her that the ZILLER ménage was not happy and that ZILLER might return alone. I do not know his mother's name but do know that she lives in the rue Darron.

I repeat that I did not come to France to fulfil a mission, but only because I could not stay in Germany, where I got along with no one. I repeat also that at no time was I aware of my husband's activity, as he had suggested that I go to work in Germany in a factory or elsewhere to get out of the environment in which we were living. He did everything in his power to keep me from leaving Germany, and I came against his wishes. Besides which, no one had enough confidence in me to trust me with a mission. I did not know the young girls sent by my husband. I never asked anyone for any information. I swear that everything I have said is the absolute truth and that I have nothing to add.

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